

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the claims are amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter. Claims 1-23 are pending.

Applicant submits that amended claims 1-23 are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112. With regard to the rejection regarding the alleged indefiniteness of the term “response,” Applicant respectfully submits that the claims must be read in light of the specification which clearly indicates that “[a] response refers herein to all the information transmitted by the network element to the network management system independent of the reason for its transmission or its content.” (specification, page 6, lines 4-6).

Additionally, regarding the term “the necessary protocol”, Applicant notes that the specification, paragraph 21, teaches that: “It is not significant for the invention, what kind of interfaces or protocols the NMS uses when communicating with network elements. The used connection and protocol can vary depending on the network element, as long as responses can be transmitted from the network element to the network management system and the network management system can establish a connection with the location indicated by the pointer in the response”. Claims 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 have been amended by replacing the term “the necessary protocol” with a term “a protocol” in order to ensure that the wording of the claims is supported by the specification.

Claims 1-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobs (U.S. 5,671,502). Applicant traverses the rejection because Jacobs fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims. For example, Jacobs fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed method (independent claims 1 and 8-13), network element (independent claims 14-17), network management system (independent claim 20 and 21) wherein a pointer is identified in a response, and the pointer indicates a location of additional information, as recited in all of the rejected claims.

Jacobs merely discloses transmitting various responses (i.e., network alarms 306 or network fault information 204) to a Network Management System (NMS). However, Jacobs fails to teach or suggest that the responses contain at least one pointer indicating a location for additional information. The Office Action asserted that Jacobs teaches such pointers at page 4, line 5; however, the pointers disclosed in Jacobs, particularly at the references passage, are actually inside the NMS system 208 (see, Jacobs, e.g., col. 8, lines 3-12; Fig. 3 and 3a, which clearly disclose that the element 318 is contained in the NMS system 208). As

a result, the pointers disclosed by Jacobs are not included in the alarms or fault information (306, 204).

In Jacobs, the NMS system itself was greatly expanded and provisioned with databases and heuristics to enable NMS operators to get a better idea of where, how and with what consequences a fault has occurred. Thus, a network built according to Jacobs would require the NMS databases to be updated with information relating to devices built by multiple vendors, which results in a very expensive implementation.

To the contrary, a system built according to the present invention, each vendor is able to provide their network nodes with the electronic manuals etc. where the links provided in the responses point to, which makes the keep-up of the NMS much simpler and inexpensive.

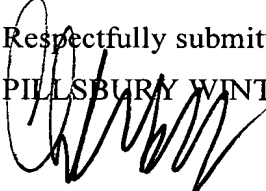
Thus, claims 1-23 are patentable over Jacobs.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-23 are believed to be in form for allowance, and a notice indicating such is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner believes may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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